

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original): An image forming apparatus comprising:
  - a pressing roller for pressing a sheet of paper on which an unfixed developer is prepared;
  - a fixing roller including a conductive roller and a releasing layer coating the conductive roller, the releasing layer facilitating removal of adhered developer, said fixing roller rotating with the sheet of paper being sandwiched between said fixing roller and said pressing roller to fix the developer to the sheet of paper with heat;
  - an auxiliary member for eliminating electricity being a substantial circle member, engaged with the outer surface of said fixing roller, and having at least one protruding portion penetrating the releasing layer to contact and electrically connect to the surface of the conductive roller; and
  - a member for eliminating electricity set at ground potential for electrically contact said auxiliary member to the ground potential.
2. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protruding portion of said auxiliary member is formed by inwardly bending one end of the circle member, and wherein at the time said auxiliary member is attached to said fixing roller, the protruding portion digs into and penetrates the releasing layer to electrically contact said conductive roller.
3. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein there are two of the protruding portions, formed by inwardly bending both ends of the circle member.

4. (currently amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the outer circumference of said auxiliary member is larger than the outer circumference of said fixing roller when the auxiliary member is attached to said fixing roller, and wherein when said fixing roller is supported by a bearing, said auxiliary member functions as a stopper for limiting the movement of said fixing roller in a longitudinal direction of the fixing roller.

5. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said member is a brush for eliminating electricity connected to ground potential, and a brush member of the brush electrically contacts said auxiliary member, which is being rotated.

6. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said member is fixed to a portion of a metal frame connected to ground potential.

7. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said auxiliary member is formed of an elastic material having an inner diameter smaller than an outer diameter of said fixing roller, and when said auxiliary member is attached to said fixing roller, said auxiliary member closely contacts said fixing roller by an elastic spring force.

8. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said fixing roller includes a heat source therein, which is an induction heating coil for performing induction heating of said conductive roller when being supplied with a high-frequency current.

9. (currently amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said conductive roller is formed of a metal ~~such as iron, stainless steel, aluminum, composite materials of these materials, etc., and~~ or a composite material, and wherein said releasing layer is formed of a resin containing ~~fluorine etc~~ fluorine.

10. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the protruding portion of said auxiliary member protrudes inwardly from the inner circumference of the circle member, and wherein the protruding portion digs into and penetrates said releasing layer to electrically contact said conductive roller when said auxiliary member is attached to said fixing roller.

11. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the outer circumference of said auxiliary member is larger than the outer circumference of said fixing roller when the auxiliary member is attached to said fixing roller, and wherein when said fixing roller is supported by a bearing, said auxiliary member functions as a stopper for limiting the movement of said fixing roller in a longitudinal direction of the roller.

12. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said member is a brush for eliminating electricity connected to ground potential, and a brush member of the brush electrically contacts said auxiliary member, which is being rotated.

13. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said member is fixed to a portion of a metal frame connected to ground potential.

14. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said auxiliary member is formed of an elastic material having an inner diameter smaller than an outer diameter of said fixing roller, and when said auxiliary member is attached to said fixing roller, said auxiliary member closely contacts said fixing roller by an elastic spring force.

15. (original): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said fixing roller includes a heat source therein, which is an induction heating coil for performing induction heating of said conductive roller when being supplied with a high-frequency current.

16. (currently amended): The image forming apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said conductive roller is formed of a metal ~~such as iron, stainless steel, aluminum, composite materials of these materials, etc., and~~ or a composite material, and wherein said releasing layer is formed of a resin containing ~~fluorine etc~~ fluorine.